

Issue 3 – July 17, 2024

Vegetable Crop Report



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Provincial Overview

Commercial asparagus harvest is over. Producers reported that yields and quality were average to slightly above average for this season.

Most commercial vegetable producers reported that despite the “challenging planting season” due to the above normal amounts of precipitation, they were able to complete the majority of their planting as planned.

The majority of commercial vegetable producers have reported that they are experiencing above average weed pressure and have experienced multiple flushes of weeds.

Commercial broccoli harvest began last week, and it is reported that cauliflower harvesting will begin next week.

To date, most of the vegetable production areas in Manitoba have had above normal amounts of precipitation and lower or near normal percent of accumulated Growing Degree Days since May 1st (Figure 1 and 2). Recently, warmer temperatures have been recorded in most vegetable production areas of the province.

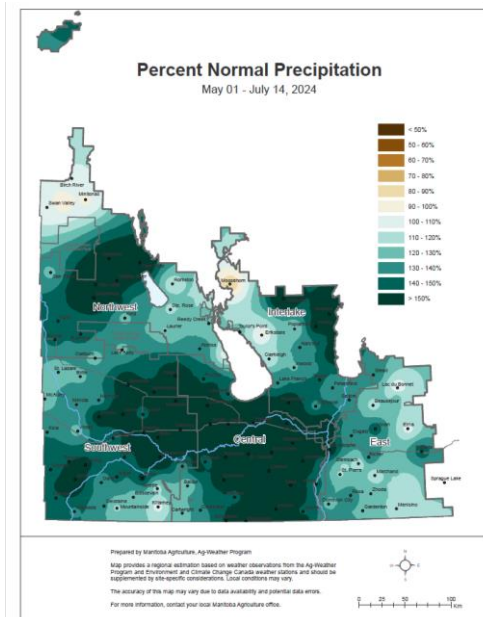


Figure 1. Percent Normal Precipitation (May 1 to July 14, 2024)

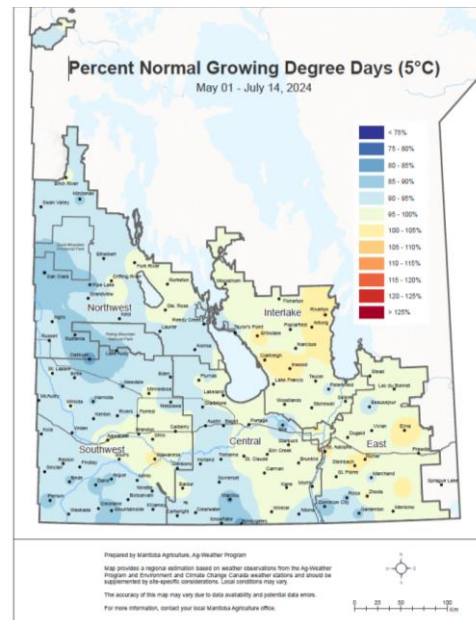


Figure 2. Percent Normal Growing Degree Days (May 1 to July 14, 2024)

For more detailed information on the weather conditions within the province, please go to the Crop Weather Conditions and Report webpage : <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/weather-conditions-and-reports.html>

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Manitoba Agriculture – Vegetable Research Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

High Tunnel Research Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

Tying, pruning, and harvesting of the tomato and cucumber variety plots has been ongoing. Development of the plots in the high tunnel trial/demonstration over the past 42 days (June 3 to July 15) are documented below in figures 3, 4, 5, and 6.



Figure 3. 2024 high tunnel vegetable plots in Portage la Prairie (June 3, 2024)



Figure 4. 2024 high tunnel vegetable plots in Portage la Prairie (June 17, 2024)



Figure 5. 2024 high tunnel vegetable plots in Portage la Prairie (July 2, 2024)



Figure 6. 2024 high tunnel vegetable plots in Portage la Prairie (July 15, 2024)

As shown in the previous Vegetable Crop Report, harvesting of min-cucumbers began on May 30, 2024. The harvesting of long English cucumber varieties began in the high tunnel on June 17, 2024 (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Cucumber yield from one plot in the high tunnel cucumber variety trials on the June 17, 2024 harvest

The first harvest of cherry, cocktail and mini-plum tomato varieties began in the high tunnel in on July 10, 2024. (Figure 8)



Figure 8. Tomato yields from one plot in the high tunnel tomato variety evaluation trials on July 10, 2024.

Presently, the high tunnel plots are being irrigated twice a day for 25 minutes per irrigation event for a total of 50 minutes per day. The pepper variety plots utilize one line of drip tape, while both the tomato and cucumber plots utilize two drip lines per plot. All plots are fertilized weekly with soluble 10-52-10 fertilizer.

Data from temperature and relative humidity sensors inside and outside of the high tunnel are updated online every hour. This “real time” hourly data and a summary can be accessed online: [Real Time High Tunnel Sensor Data \(mbagweather.ca\)](https://mbagweather.ca) (Figure 9).

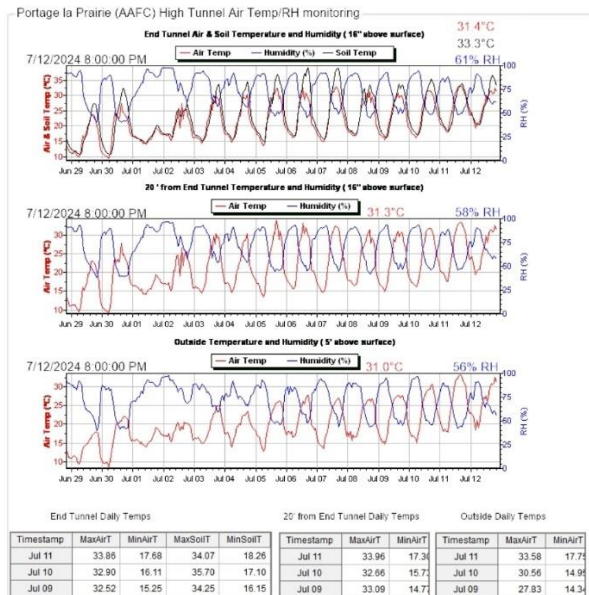


Figure 9. Screenshot of high tunnel sensor data webpage (July 12, 2024)

Field Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

Manitoba Agriculture has a late blight sentinel tomato and potato plot planted in Portage la Prairie that is not protected with fungicides. This plot is intended to show late blight infection when it is present, and conditions are favourable for the disease in the Portage la Prairie area. To date, there has been no late blight observed in the sentinel plot this season.

Weed control has been an issue in our plots this season. All plots except the Spanish onion plots, are planted into plastic mulch. Weed control in our plots is accomplished using a tractor mounted rotovator, walk behind tillers, hoeing and hand rouging of plots. The amount of rainfall in June made it hard to keep on top of the continued flushes of weeds.

All plots were irrigated with a starter solution of 10-52-10 immediately after planting. Spanish onion transplants were irrigated twice weekly for the first one and a half weeks, while irrigation has not been required this season on all other plots until recently due to the rainfall. The first irrigation of all the non-onion plots was applied on July 10th and 11th. To date, the only plots that appear to have been adversely affected by the excess moisture this season are the watermelon plots, with approximately 75% of the plants adversely affected and lower than average yields are expected (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Watermelon plant affected by excess moisture (July 15, 2024)

Harvesting of the zucchini plots began on July 3. Varieties in the plot are Golden Glory, Midnight Noche, and San Isidro. Midnight Noche was not marketable, but San Isidro and Golden Glory were marketable. (Figure 11)



Figure 11. Zucchini harvest July 3, 2024

2024 Horticulture School Update

There are still spots available for anyone interested in attending the 2024 Horticulture School on Thursday August 1, 2024, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Agriculture and Agri Food Canada Research Station located at 370 River Road in Portage la Prairie, MB.

The sessions at the 2024 Horticulture School include:

- Early season strawberry production in high tunnels.
- Soil testing and fertilizing of vegetable fields.
- Identification of beneficial insects and to how they can help in crop production along with a display of commercially available biological control products.
- Safe use of Pesticides with information on re-entry intervals, post harvest intervals, personal protective equipment, maximum residue limits and other related information.
- Water use and management with information regarding water sources / quality, types of irrigation systems / design, irrigation scheduling / efficiency and water management challenges.
- Weed Identification and control of weeds in horticulture production.

Pre-registration is required. You can register via email at Jennifer.green@gov.mb.ca or by calling (204) 745-5630. The cost to attend is \$40 and includes lunch and refreshments. Registration can be paid by cash on the day of the Horticulture School, by cheque (payable to PFGA) or by e-transfer (pfgalocal@gmail.com).

Next Issue: August 25, 2024